

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

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O 261829Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4965

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T CARACAS 7041

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR OAS VE CU CS CO

SUBJ: CUBA - OAS: CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ

1. AMBASSADOR MAILLIARD, MCNEIL AND I CALLED THIS MORNING BY APPOINTMENT ON PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ.

2. AMBASSADOR MAILLIARD WENT OVER OUR PREOCCUPATION AT RISKS WHICH THREATENED OAS IF VARIOUS MEMBER REPUBLICS SHOULD ACT PRECIPITOUSLY AND GO OFF ON THEIR OWN TO RECOGNIZE CUBA AND JEOPARDIZE

THE SANCTIONS VOTED BY OAS UNDER THE RIO TREATY. AMB. MAILLIARD REVIEWED HIS RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH COSTA RICAN FONMIN FACIO AND SAID HE HAD BEEN GIVEN IMPRESSION BY FACIO FROM VAZQUES CARRIZOSA THAT POSSIBLY COLOMBIA MIGHT "JUMP THE GUN" IN A SUDDEN MOVE TO RECOGNIZE CASTRO.

3. PRESIDENT PEREZ SAID THAT LAST WEEK A COSTA RICAN EMISSARY HAD VISITED CARACAS AFTER HAVING LIKEWISE DONE THE ROUNDS OF SEVERAL OTHER CAPITALS. HE BROUGHT A MESSAGE FROM THE COSTA RICAN FONMIN SUGGESTING THAT A COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY BE FORMED BY THE OAS WITH TERMS OF REFERENCE REQUIRING IT TO ASCERTAIN IF, AS A MATTER OF FACT, THE CONDITIONS PRECEDENT TO THE OSTRACISM OF CUBA STILL OBTAINED. THIS COMMITTEE, SAID FACIO, WOULD BE PURELY INVESTIGATORY AND THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS WOULD REQUIRE A SUBSEQUENT OAS DECISION.

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4. PRESIDENT PEREZ HAD SENT BACK WORD TO FACIO THROUGH HIS FONMIN THAT, ALTHOUGH VENEZUELA WOULD NOT RPT NOT INTERPOSE OBJECTION TO CREATION OF SUCH A COMMITTEE, VENEZUELA WOULD NOT ITSELF BE A MEMBER. IT COULD NOT BE FORGOTTEN THAT IT WAS CASTRO'S SUBVERSION AGAINST VENEZUELAN SOVEREIGNTY WHICH HAD FIRST GIVEN RISE TO THE OAS RESOLUTION UNDER THE RIO TREATY.

5. AMB. MAILLIARD SPOKE OF DIFFICULTIES WHICH USG WOULD ENCOUNTER IF THERE WERE TOO PRECIPITATE ACTION EITHER IN OR OUTSIDE THE OAS ON THE CUBAN ISSUE. HE SAID THAT THE U.S. WOULD HAVE TO APPROVE ANY KIND OF EARLY OAS ACTION. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE U.S. WOULD BE WILLING TO GO ALONG WITH A MEETING LATE IN THE YEAR IN, SAY, NOVEMBER. IF THERE WERE TO BE A PREMATURE MEETING OF THE OAS TO DISCUSS CUBA, THE USG WOULD TO ITS GREAT REGRET FIND ITSELF IN OPEN AND PERHAPS VIOLENT OPPOSITION TO OTHER MEMBERS OF THE ORGANIZATION.

6. PRESIDENT PEREZ SAID THAT SO FAR AS HE WAS CONCERNED THERE WAS NO OBJECTION AT ALL TO POSTPONING ACTION. HOWEVER, HE SEEMED TO HAVE IT FIRMLY SCREWED INTO HIS HEAD THAT THERE IS TO BE A MEETING OF OAS FOREIGN MINISTERS IN BUENOS AIRES NEXT SEPTEMBER AND IF THAT WERE THE CASE OUR SUGGESTION TO POSTPONE ACTION MIGHT NOT BE FEASIBLE. THE AMERICAN SIDE SAID THEY WERE COMPLETELY IN THE DARK AS TO AN MFM IN SEPTEMBER AND THE PRESIDENT IN REFLECTION SAID PERHAPS HE HAD BEEN MISINFORMED. WHEN AMB. MAILLIARD ASSURED HIM THAT TO OUR CERTAIN KNOWLEDGE THE BUENOS AIRES MFM IS NOT SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE UNTIL MARCH, THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT REMOVED THE DIFFICULTIES SO FAR AS THE TIME SEQUENCE WAS CONCERNED.

7. COMING NEXT TO THE ATTITUDE OF COLOMBIA AND PARTICULARLY THAT OF PRESIDENT-ELECT LOPEZ, PRESIDENT PEREZ SAID THAT SO FAR AS HE WAS AWARE, LOPEZ HAD NO INTENTION OF RAPIDLY RECOGNIZING CASTRO. ON THE CONTRARY, WHEN PEREZ HAD LAST HAD A TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH THE PRESIDENT-ELECT, THEY HAD AGREED THAT ON THE CUBAN ISSUE NO DECISIONS WOULD BE TAKEN UNTIL THEY HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO CONFER TOGETHER.

8. SUCH A MEETING WILL BE HELD TOMORROW WHEN LOPEZ TRANSITS CARACAS EN ROUTE TO BOGOTA FROM HIS EUROPEAN HOLIDAY. IN RESPONSE TO OUR DIRECT REQUEST, PEREZ AGREED TO COUNSEL HIS COLOMBIAN COLLEAGUE
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NOT TO DO ANYTHING HASTY ABOUT CUBA AND TO INFORM LOPEZ OF THE U.S. DESIRE THAT NO OAS OR OTHER ACTION ON CUBA BE TAKEN UNTIL THE END OF NOVEMBER OR EARLY DECEMBER.

9. PRESIDENT PEREZ PROMISED TO INFORM ME OF THE OUTCOME OF HIS CONVERSATION WITH THE COLOMBIAN PRESIDENT-ELECT BUT IT WAS CLEAR THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE LOPEZ WOULD DO ANYTHING ABOUT CUBA WITHOUT HIS, PEREZ'S, AGREEMENT. IT WAS EQUALLY CLEAR THAT PEREZ

WAS IN ACCORD WITH US ABOUT POSTPONING ACTION UNTIL AFTER U.S. ELECTIONS.

10. THE CONVERSATION ENDED BY AMB. MAILLIARD ASSURING PRESIDENT PEREZ THAT HIS ATTITUDE AND ACTIONS WOULD BE WARMLY APPRECIATED BY WASHINGTON, AND THAT THE PRESIDENT OF VENEZUELA WAS DOING THE U.S. AND THE OAS A VERY GREAT FAVOR.

11. FOR SAN JOSE, CHARGE LANE: PLEASE INFORM FACIO OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE ABOVE AND REPORT ANY REACTION. IT IS OUR VIEW THAT HIS ORIGINAL

IDEA OF GOING TO BOGOTA WOULD PROBABLY BE USEFUL.
MCCLINTOCK

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